

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A retail system in a transaction establishment comprising:

a plurality of point-of-sale terminals connected to each other by a network including a number of store networks for processing transactions in a first mode of operation and for analyzing portions of bulk customer transaction history data in a second mode of operation; and

a server connected to the point-of-sale terminals by the network including a control processor for receiving the bulk customer transaction history data from the point-of-sale terminals, for dividing the bulk transaction history data into the portions, for assigning the portions to the point-of-sale terminals, for placing the point-of-sale terminals in the second mode of operation, for receiving results of customer transaction history data analysis from the point-of-sale terminals, and for performing trend analysis on the results to improve operation of the transaction establishment.

7. (Previously submitted) The system of claim 6, wherein the control processor additionally determines whether the point-of-sale terminals are idle before placing the point-of-sale terminals in the second mode of operation.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the point-of-sale terminals suspend the customer transaction history data analysis of the second mode operation to process the transactions of the first mode of operation.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the control processor transfers the portions of the bulk customer transaction history data from first point-of-sale terminals operating in the first mode of operation to second point-of-sale terminals operating in the second mode of operation.

10. (Currently amended) A method of processing bulk customer transaction history data comprising:

(a) receiving the bulk customer transaction history data from a plurality of point-of-sale terminals connected to each other by a network including a number of store networks by a control processor of a server connected to the network;

(b) determining that first point-of-sale terminals are substantially idle by the control processor;

~~(a)~~ (c) dividing the bulk customer transaction history data into portions by a the control processor of a server;

~~(b)~~ (d) sending the portions of the bulk customer

transaction history data to a plurality of transaction the first point-of-sale terminals connected to each other and to the server via a network by the control processor;

~~(e)~~ (e) causing the transaction first point-of-sale terminals to analyze the portions of the bulk customer transaction history data by the control processor;

~~(d)~~ (f) obtaining results of analyzing the portions of the bulk customer transaction history data from the ~~transaction~~ first point-of-sale terminals by the control processor; and

~~(e)~~ (g) performing trend analysis on the results by the control processor.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

~~(f)~~ (h) determining that second point-of-sale terminals of the first transaction point-of-sale terminals are involved in processing transactions; and

~~(g)~~ (i) stopping analysis of first portions of the bulk customer transaction history data by the ~~first transaction~~ second point-of-sale terminals by the control processor.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further

comprising the steps of:

(h) transferring the first portions of the bulk customer transaction history data to ~~second-transaction~~ third point-of-sale terminals of the first point-of-sale terminals by the control processor; and

(i) causing the ~~second-transaction~~ third point-of-sale terminals to analyze the first portions of the bulk customer transaction history data by the control processor.